(b) if so, the details of such steps proposed by ICMR;

(c) the problems identified by the ICMR with regard to the functioning of the NIN, Hyderabad;

(d) the details of problems observed and the solutions proposed within this financial year by ICMR; and

(e) what other steps are proposed to remove various problems related to the National Institute of Nutrition?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) is a permanent research Institute under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a fully funded autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Institute has been recognized by many national and international agencies as center for conducting advanced as well as ad-hoc training courses in nutrition and laboratory animal sciences. The Institute also functions as a nodal agency for Food & Drug Toxicology Research Centre (FDTRC), National Centre for Laboratory Animal Sciences (NCLAS) and the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB).

During the year 2005-06, the Institute has been allocated a budgetary provision of Rs. 17.77 crores both for Plan and Non-Plan activities. Scaling up the infrastructure, laboratory facilities, manpower skill etc. of all the permanent institutes and centers of ICMR is a continuous process. The following research facilities were modernized/established recently:—

i. Establishment of a HPCL analytical facility.
ii. Establishment of GM Food analytical facility.
iii. Establishment of equipment facilities at Primate Centre.

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of NIN consisting of eminent scientists which reviews the work done by the Institute in preceding year and gives guidance for activities to be taken up in the following year, has not indicated any problem in the functioning of NIN.

Unemployment problem among the Pharma Graduates/Post Graduates

*95. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the unemployment problem among the Pharma Graduates/Post Graduates, etc.;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to evolve a policy to ensure that these experienced and qualified persons in the pharmaceutical field are gainfully employed;

(c) whether it is proposed to conduct training or refresher courses for the medical practitioners in different systems of medicines to acquaint them with the latest trends and developments in the respective fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) There are no reports to indicate unemployment problems amongst Pharma graduates/post graduates. There are wide prospects of employment in the Industry, Government and Retail pharmacy business. Further, it is projected that during the post GATT regime there would be expanded scope for employment of pharmacists. The State Pharmacy Councils have registered over 5.5 Lakhs graduate/diploma holder pharmacists, many of whom are gainfully employed as retail chemists.

(c) and (d) Continuing Medical Education Programmes, coordinated and financed by the Medical Council of India, are regularly held in various Medical Colleges for updating knowledge and skills of the Allopathic Medical Practitioners. Reorientation Training Programmes and Continuing Medical Education Programmes for ISM&H practitioners are regularly held in various ISM&H Institutions for which the support is provided by the Department of AYUSH in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. These programmes will continue to be held during the current year also.

Setting up of concrete sleeper plants

†*96. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to set up 15 new concrete sleeper plants;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.